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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of identifying a storage path used to store digital images within a computer system comprising:

identifying a first storage facility and a directory within the first storage facility for storing a digital image;

generating a first image identifier associated with the first storage facility and the directory;

generating a second image identifier comprising a random number;

generating a unique hash value by encrypting the first and second image identifiers; and

identifying the storage path using the first and second image identifiers and the unique hash value wherein related digital images have unrelated storage paths.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the digital image is received from at least one of a subscriber of the computer system and a third party associated with the subscriber.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein identifying a storage path comprises extracting storage path information from at least one of the first image identifier and the second image identifier.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3 further comprising translating the storage path information.

5. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein identifying a storage path comprises using the unique hash value as a filename.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising storing the digital image in the first storage facility at the identified storage path.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 further comprising generating and storing lower resolution thumbnails at the identified storage path.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising identifying a second storage facility for storing metadata describing the digital image.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein identifying a second storage facility comprises encoding account information associated with the digital image.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the account information comprises a screen name associated with a subscriber.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising mapping the encoded account information to an appropriate storage space group containing second storage facility.

12. (Original) The method of claim 8 further comprising storing metadata describing the digital image in the second storage facility.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12 further comprising providing access to the stored digital image and the stored metadata.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein generating the unique hash value comprises applying at least on of the MD5 algorithm and the DES algorithm to the first and second image identifiers.

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15. (Previously Presented) A digital image storage apparatus, comprising a host configured to:

identify a first storage facility and a directory within the first storage facility for storing a digital image;

generate a first image identifier associated with the first storage facility and the directory;

generate a second image identifier comprising a random number;

generate a unique hash value by encrypting the first and second image identifiers; and

identify a storage path using the first and second image identifiers and the unique hash value wherein related digital images have unrelated storage paths.

16. (Previously Presented) A computer program, stored on a computer readable medium, comprising instructions for:

identifying a first storage facility and a directory within the first storage facility for storing a digital image;

generating a first image identifier associated with the first storage facility and the directory;

generating a second image identifier comprising a random number;

generating a unique hash value by encrypting the first and second image identifiers; and

identifying a storage path using the first and second image identifiers and the unique hash value wherein related digital images have unrelated storage paths.

17. (Original) The computer program of claim 16 wherein the computer readable medium comprises a disk.

18. (Original) The computer program of claim 16 wherein the computer readable medium comprises a client device.

19. (Original) The computer program of claim 16 wherein the computer readable medium comprises a host device.

20. (Original) The computer program of claim 16 wherein the computer readable medium comprises a propagated signal.

21. (Cancelled).

22. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 13 further comprising:
receiving a notification associated with a digital image from the subscriber; and
regulating access of the subscriber to the digital image based on the notification.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the host further comprises a host configured to receive the digital image from at least one of a subscriber of a computer system and a third party associated with the subscriber.

24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the host configured to identify a storage path comprises a host configured to identify a storage path by extracting storage path information from at least one of the first image identifier and the second image identifier.

25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 24 wherein the host further comprises a host configured to translate the storage path information.

26. (Original) The apparatus of claim 24 wherein the host configured to identify a storage path comprises a host configured to identify a storage path using the unique hash value as a filename.

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27. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the host further comprises a host configured to store the digital image in the first storage facility at the identified storage path.

28. (Original) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the host further comprises a host configured to generate and store lower resolution thumbnails at the identified storage path.

29. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the host further comprises a host configured to identify a second storage facility for storing metadata describing the digital image.

30. (Original) The apparatus of claim 29 wherein the host further comprises a host configured to identify a second storage facility comprises encoding account information associated with the digital image.

31. (Original) The apparatus of claim 30 wherein the account information comprises a screen name associated with a subscriber.

32. (Original) The apparatus of claim 30 wherein the host further comprises a host configured to map the encoded account information to an appropriate storage space group containing the second storage facility.

33. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 29 wherein the host further comprises a host configured to store metadata describing the digital image in the second storage facility.

34. (Original) The apparatus of claim 33 wherein the host further comprises a host configured to provide access to the stored digital image and the stored metadata.

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35. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein a host configured to generate the unique hash value comprises a host configured to apply at least one of the MD5 algorithm and the DES algorithm to the first and second image identifiers.

36. (Original) The computer program of claim 16 wherein the digital image is received from at least one of a subscriber of a computer system and a third party associated with the subscriber.

37. (Original) The computer program of claim 16 wherein identifying a storage path comprises extracting storage path information from at least one of the first image identifier and the second image identifier.

38. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 37 further comprising translating the storage path information.

39. (Original) The computer program of claim 37 wherein identifying a storage path comprises using the unique hash value as a filename.

40. (Original) The computer program of claim 16 further comprising storing the digital image in the first storage facility at the identified storage path.

41. (Original) The computer program of claim 40 further comprising generating and storing lower resolution thumbnails at the identified storage path.

42. (Original) The computer program of claim 16 further comprising identifying a second storage facility for storing metadata describing the digital image.

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43. (Original) The computer program of claim 42 wherein identifying a second storage facility comprises encoding account information associated with the digital image.

44. (Original) The computer program of claim 43 wherein the account information comprises a screen name associated with a subscriber.

45. (Original) The computer program of claim 43 further comprising mapping the encoded account information to an appropriate storage space group containing the second storage facility.

46. (Original) The computer program of claim 42 further comprising storing metadata describing the digital image in the second storage facility.

47. (Original) The computer program of claim 46 further comprising providing access to the stored digital image and the stored metadata.

48. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 16 wherein generating the unique hash value comprises applying at least one of the MD5 algorithm and the DES algorithm to the first and second image identifiers.

49 – 59. (Cancelled).

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22 further comprising regulating access of an online identity other than the subscriber to the digital image based on the notification.